

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4299

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS LUANDA 1542

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: AEF MISSIONARY

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM DONALD LUTES DATED SEPTEMBER 26 AND WHICH I RECEIVED OCTOBER 7;

"DEAR MR. KILLORAN:

WHEN I SPOKE TO YOU BY PHONE PATCH A FEW WEEKS AGO, I DID NOT EXPECT TO BE WRITING UNDER CONDITIONS SUCH AS THESE IN WHICH I FIND MYSELF NOW. I BELIEVE YOU ARE AWARE OF MY PRESENT SITUATION THROUGH A FRIEND WHO SAID HE WOULD GIVE YOU, LAST WEEK, A COPY OF AN OPEN LETTER I WROTE AND ALSO AN ADVICE FROM ANOTHER MISSIONARY HERE IN SA DA BANDEIRA. SINCE OTHER MISSIONARIES HOPE TO GET A FLIGHT TO LUANDA THIS AFTERNOON I WILL BRING YOU UP TO DATE.

TWO YEARS AGO, THE AFRICAN EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP IN ANGOLA DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN INTER-MISSION HOOK-UP SUCH AS OUR FELLOWSHIP HAS HAD FOR MANY YEARS IN ZAMBIA AND IN MALAWI. INVESTIGATIONS WERE MADE, BUT THE FUNDS WERE NOT AVAILABLE TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT. IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, I RAISED THE MATTER AGAIN - AND IN APRIL WE BEGAN TO TAKE DEFINITIVE STEPS. SOME MONEY CAME TO HAND

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AND WE ORDERED THE SETS THROUGH SILVA BASTO, LDA (LUANDA),

PLACING THE ORDER THROUGH SOCIREL, THEIR AGENTS IN SA DA BANDEIRA.
THE ORDER WAS PLACED IN
MAY 9TH AND WE WERE PROMISED DELIVERY
IN 15 DAYS.

THE MANY DELAYS WERE PROBABLY JUSTIFIED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES,
BUT THE SETS BECAME AVAILABLE TO US ONLY SEPT. 1ST. ON SEPT.
6TH I LEFT TO INSTALL THE SETS AT THE TWO MISSION STATIONS
WHICH WERE TO BE IN CONTACT WITH SA DA BANDEIRA. ON MONDAY
NIGHT, SEPT 8TH, THE SET AT CAVANGO MISSION STATION WENT ON
THE AIR. MY WIFE, FLORENCE, HAD REMAINED IN SA DA BANDEIRA
TO ANDLE THIS SET, AND THE TECHINICIAN WAS WITH HER MOST OF
THE TIME TO HELP MAKE AND ADVISE ON THE ADJUSTMENTS. ON
THURSDAY EVENING, AE COMPLETED THE INSTALLATION AT CATOTA
MISSION STATION AND ENTERED INTO CONTACT WITH CAVANGO, BUT
COULD NOT CONTACT SA DA BANDEIRA, ALTHOURH FLORENCE HAD PREVIOUSLY
SPOKEN (THAT MORNING) TO CAVANGO. I WAITED AN EXTRA DAY AT
CATOTA ON THE CHANCE THAT THERE HAD BEEN TECHNICAL TROUBLE,
BUT THEN HURRIED BACK TO SA DA BANDEIRA. I WAS ARRESTED,
STILL 40 KM FROM SA DA BANDEIRA, AT 1 PM ON MONDAY, THE 15TH -
BUT IT WAS 7 PM BEFORE I LEARNED THE REASON.

2 FACTS HERE TO EMPHASIZE: THE DECISION TO SET UP RADIO CONTACT
WAS OF LONG STANDING AND HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PRESENT
SITUATION.

2. THE HOOK UP HAD NOT YET BEGUN TO FUNCTION AND WAS STILL
IN THE INSTALLATION PHASE.

ON THE AFTERNOON OF THURSDAKY, SEP 11TH A GROUP OF HEAVILY
ARMED MEN, LED BY A WHITE MAN, ENTERED OUR HOUSE, THREATENING
AND TERRORIZING MY WIFE TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT SHE IS STILL
IN A STATE OF
SHOCK, AND UNDER TRANQUILIZERS. PERHAPS IT
WILL BE BETTER HERE, TO SPARE THE DETAILS...

THE WHITE MAN, "CARLOS ALBERTO" WHO SAID HE BELONGED TO THE
MPLA SECURITY POLICE, SAID I WAS "SUSPECT" BECAUSE WE HAD
RADIO SETS WHICH LINKED MISSION STATIONS IN AREAS CONTROLLED
BY OTHER MOVEMENTS. HE SAID I WAS "SUSPECT" BECAUSE WE HAD
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PREPARED A "CODE" TO REFER TO PLACES-MISSIONS, AND MOVEMENTS-
THIS, OF COURSE, IS COMMON PROCEDURE WITH HAM AND RADIO OPERATORS,
TO PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF INDIVIDUALS. BECAUSE I WAS THIS
"SUSPECT" HE HAD FILLED ALL
OUR SUITCASES WITH MATERIAL TAKEN
FROM MY FILES AND HAD SENT IT TO
UANDA TO BE CHECKED, BECAUSE
MOST OF IT WAS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. MY PROCESS WOULD BE

BACK IN A FEW DAYS, AND IN THE MEANTIME, I AOULD BE HELD INCOMMUNICADO. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE MILITANTS WHO CAME WITH HIM HAD HELPED THEMSELVES TO WHAT THEY WANTED IN OUR USE.

-FACTS: 1 NO ACCUSATION HAS BEEN MADE. I HAVE NOT BEEN QUESTIONED. I WAS ONLY TOLD I WAS "SUSPECT".
2. THE MAN WHO TOOK THE "PROCESS" TO LUANDA RETURNED TO SA DA BANGEIRA ON WEDNESDAY MORNING, 24 TH. BUT I AM STILL UNABLE TO FIND OUT ANYTHING.
3. WHEN ARRESTED, IN INSISTED ON HAVING MY PASSPORT AND WAS TAKEN TO THE HOUSE TO GET IT. I CAN VERIFY THAT EVERYTHING FROM MY DESK OF VALUE HAD BEEN TAKEN - RADIO, COMPUTER, TAPE RECORDERS (CASSETES); AND THAT CHEQUES IN U.SJM AND CANADIAN DOLLARES, AND EVERYTHING ELSE OF VALUE HAD BEEN IN THE DRAWER WHERE MY PASSPORT WERE, HAD BEEN TAKEN. I SAW THAT IN OUR BEDROOM THERE WAS A PILE, ABOUT 4 FEET HIGH OF DRAWERS, CLOTHING, BEDDING, ETC. BESOND THIS I CAN VERIFY NOTHING ONLY THAT CARLOS ALBERTO SAID THEY HAD TAKEN THE APPARATUS FROM OUR RECORDING STUDIO, ETC. THIS SAME INDIVIDUAL HAS THE KEYS TO OUR HOUSE AND NEIGHBORS SAY HE APPEARS THERE FROM TIME TO TIME.

4. THE SAME CARLOS ALBERTO SAID TO ME THAT, IF THEY ARE UNABLE TO MAKE A CASE ARAINST ME, THEY WILL HAVE TO TRY TO LOCATE THE THINGS TAKEN FROM THE HOUSE AND RETURN THEM - BUT THAT IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO PROVE ME GUILTY**

5. OF THE THINGS LOOTED, LITTLE WAS ACTUALLY PERSONAL POSSESSIONS (BESIDES FURNITURE AND CLOTHING). MOST BELONGED O HE MISSION SOME TO THE CHURCH AND SOME TO OTHER MISSIONARIES.
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OUR PRESENT SITUATION:-

1. I HAVE NOT BEEN PHYSICALLY HARMED IN ANYWAY.....YET.
2. I HAVE BEEN DETAINED IN ONE OF THE "QUARTEKLSJZ OF THE MPLA SINCE SEPTEMBER 15 AND STILL HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GET ANY INFORMATION ABOUT MY CASE.
3. FRIENDS ARE BRINGING ME FOOD AND I AM GETTING ALONG FINE, BUT IT IS A REAL SACRIFICE FOR THEM BECAUSE OF THE ACUTE SHORTARE OF FUEL FOR CARS.
4. MY WIFE, FLORENCE, WAS LOCKED OUT OF OUR HOUSE AND ONE OF THE NEIGHBORS TOOK HER IN. FRIENDS GAVE HERE SOME CLOTHES AND, SINCE SHE IS PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO GO OUT, SHE GETS BY WITH WHAT SHE HAS. I AN VERY ANXIOUS THAT FLORENCE LEAVE THE COUNTRY, BUT SHE WON'T GO AS LONG AS I AM IN PRISON.

OUR EXPECTATIONS:-

1. THAT THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL IN INVENTING A CASE AGAINST ME - THEN WE WOULD PROBABLY BE EXPELLED AND THEY WOULD REMAIN WITH OUR BELONGINGS.
2. THAT THEY ARE UNADLE TO FABRICATE SUCCESSFULLY AN ACCUSATION AND SO, TO NOT BE FORCED O RETURNED THE THINGS STOLEN, MY CASE IS CONVENIENTLY "FORGOTTEN" AND LEFT WITHOUT SOLUTION.

PERSONALLY I CANNOT SEE HOW THEY CAN FORMULATE ANY ACCUSATION AND UPHOLD IT IN COURT - BUT COURTS ARE NON-EXISTANT ANYWAY* IN MY OPINION THE EVIDENCE IS CONCLUSIVE, IN OUR 23 YEARS OF ANGOLA, THAT WE HAVE ALWAYS AVOIDED POLITICAL ENTANGLEMENTS. OUR MINISTERS HAVE BEEN ENTHIELY, AND EXCLUSIVE Y, SPIRITUAL. THIS, COUPLED AITH THE LACK OF ANY PROOF ON THEIR PART, IN THE DEFENSE OF WHICH WE STAND. (OF COURSE, OUR REAL DEFENSE IS IN THE LORD, OUR GOD).

WE HAVE NEVER BEEN IN THE HABIT OF ASKING CONSULAR INTERVENTION AND MY PURPOSE IN WRITING THIS IS O REQUEST THAT, IF THE "LOCALS" DECIDE TO LET ME "ROT IN PRISON" THAT YOU WILL AT LEAST BE ONE O REMEMBER WE ARE HERE*

FRIENDS HAVE TAKEN THE CASE TO THE HIGHER AUTHORITIES OF THE MPLA. MY CASE (LOOTING) AND THE BEATING UP OF THE SWISS
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MISSIONARY, MR. BRANDLE, HAS CAUSED MUCH TROUBLE FOR THE LOCAL SECURITY AGENTS. BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE PROVOKED INTERNAL STRIFE IN THE MOVEMENT - AND MY CASE, AS A CASE TO BE RESOLVED HAS BEEN FORGOTTEN".
KILLORAN

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